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# 68 SCARP comic convention

(SEE INSIDE BACK COVER)

(SEE INSIDE BACK COVER)

# A 2ND PROGRESS REPORT MUST MEAN PROGRESS!

Here's the final pre-Convention report of our progress; the homestretch in our planning. As this is written, the Convention is 75 days away, and because many participating guests can't be sure (at this early date) exactly which days or hours they'll be able to attend, we can't make our plans exact. The plans we can make, though, are interesting.

Stan Lee will make the keynote speech of the convention. For an American institution such as comic books, July Fourth is quite an appropriate day.

Dick Giordano will lead a round-table discussion concerning the job of editor. With him will be Wally Wood, and we expect confirmations from others soon.

A panel discussion will be held concerning the possible similarities and differences between comic books and comic strips.

Al Williamson and Archie Goodwin will explain some of the advantages (and the disadvantages) of collaborating.

Jim Steranko will demonstrate some drawing techniques especially for the younger fans who aim to become artists.

We have a panel scheduled which will include some history of comics fandom, and an appraisal of fandom's contributions.

We'll have an open session at the end of the Convention, with two purposes; planning next year's Con, and evaluating this one.

To our list in Progress Report #1 of pros who will be attending the convention, we would like to add these names: Neal Adams, Nelson Bridwell, Joe Orlando, Jerry Robinson, and Sal Trapani.

Exhibits will be on view every day. Some will remain all four days, but part of the exhibition will change daily, to add variety. Final plans have not been made in this area, but original art will be part of it.

Details for other features of the convention can be found on the following pages. Of course, a full and detailed printed program will be available at the convention. It probably doesn't need to be said, but we'll have four full days worth!

-- P. S.

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PROGRESS REPORT #2 is distributed free to all members, and only to members of The International Convention of Comic Art, which will be held at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Thirty-third Street and Eighth Avenue, New York City from July 4th through July 7th, 1968, under the auspices of The Society for Comic Art Research and Preservation, Incorporated. Contents copyright © John Benson 1968. Front cover copyright © Marvel Comics Group 1968.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### DR. SOL DAVIDSON

Not all the speakers at the Convention come from the ranks of professionals; one of the most interesting might even be termed a 'fan.'

That's not to say that Dr. Sol M. Davidson of Des Moines isn't a professional in his own right -- for he is many times over. He's a published author, a noted lecturer and commentator, and a recognized instructor, as well as being senior officer and director of operations and administration of the Dial Finance Company, which has 350 branch offices in 39 states.

Developing executives for the business world is Dr. Davidson's specialty; and comics are his lifelong love. He's an authority on both.

Dr. Davidson holds a doctor of philosophy degree in Ancient Civilization from New York University. His doctoral dissertation was titled "Culture and the Comic Strips." As such, Dr. Davidson can be said to be the first man who has ever "gotten his Ph.D. in comic strips."

His doctor's thesis was 1,013 pages long. It touches on still unique grounds that previously published books on comics have not covered to any extent. The thesis is now in the process of being edited for general publication in the near future.

Also scheduled for publication in book form is Dr. Davidson's new comic strip, "Philbert the Flea -- With the Ph.D." These will take their place alongside his already published titles, "The Power of Friction," and "The Cultivation of Imperfection," both from Frederick Fell, Inc. King Features Syndicate termed "Cultivation" "the best inspirational book of the year. The book is now enjoying a second printing, while "Friction" was released just this year.

Dr. Davidson plans a serious talk, but a lively one. He will outline what comic strips really are, what circumstances in history created the new art media of the comics, and what contributions the comics have made to culture. It will be similar to interviews he has given over "Monitor," the nationwide weekend radio program, and talks he has given before literally hundreds of civic clubs and social organizations.

And Dr. Davidson will be drawing on a vast storehouse of knowledge. After all, he's taught semester-long courses for adults. The course subject? "The comics," of course!

-- T. F.

# LEE FALK

Lee Falk will give a talk on adventure strips at the convention.

A native of Saint Louis, Falk had been a successful writer for stage and radio before teaming up with Phil Davis. Together, the two men created for King Features Syndicate in 1934 Mandrake the top-hatted magician, master of hypnotism and legerdemain who, flanked by his faithful retainer, the giant Lothar, has been delighting several generations of readers.

Two years later, Lee Falk created another unforgettable character, The Phantom, the last in a dynasty of justice-fighters, and probably the first in a long line of masked heroes. The Phantom was drawn at its inception in 1936 by Ray Moore, then by Wilson McCoy. It is now in the capable hands of Sy Barry.

Falk is also a successful playwright whose comedies have been staged both in the United States and abroad. Two years ago his play Eris enjoyed a popular success in Paris.

-- M. H.

# MILTON CANIFF

Milton Caniff will give the concluding speech of the convention, as well as a chalk talk and a question and answer period.

It would be presumptuous to try to introduce Milton Caniff; a cartoonist of unequalled qualities and a first-rate story teller, Caniff is at the head of that small group of artists who raised the comic strip to the level of a genuine art form.

Caniff began his professional art career while attending Ohio State University; he got a job with the Columbus Dispatch and continued there after his graduation in 1930. Although he was fired when the depression came, his work there attracted the attention of the Associated Press and soon he was doing miscellaneous features for them which finally resulted in a strip of his own, Dickie Dare.

In October 1934, Caniff began the famous Terry and the Pirates. But in an unexpected and daring move, he left Terry at the height of its popularity in 1947 to create a new strip, Steve Canyon, which he still writes and illustrates today.

Caniff's mastery in the pencil-and-brush techniques of drawing, his subtle compositions with large alternating masses of whites and solid blacks, the exact yet imaginative rendering of locale and atmosphere have made him justly famous in and out of his profession. He encouraged and influenced a whole school of cartoonists who heavily borrowed from his techniques. As an artist and as a man, he is one of the most respected figures in cartooning today.

## FOR COLLECTORS

Listening to scintillating panels and talks and meeting famous names in the comic art field will be very entertaining and informative. Most gatherings of people who share a common interest consider such hobnobbing with the celebrities to be the highpoint of a convention, and surely we don't take it lightly.

But collectors! There's a different kind of group -- acquisitive and fanatic. Can you imagine a comic art convention without opportunities to buy, to sell, to trade, to acquire?

We can't. So a huge and lovely room has been set aside for dealers (see the floorplan elsewhere in this booklet). These are some of the dealers who have already reserved tables: Bill Thailing; Ed Aprill, Jr.; Phil Seuling; Howard Rogofsky; Rich Hauser; Able-Man Book Shop; H. Keller; Castle of Frankenstein; Alan Barbour; Russell Trading Post; Mark Ricci; Gary Dolgoff; Joel Frieman; and David Waxman. And dealers tables are still available, so there's sure to be more by convention time.

There will be comics, both books and strips, magazines, posters, toys and premiums, and original artwork. And there will be (in smaller quantities) material on films and science fiction. When else and where else could someone find such opportunities?

-- P. S.

## SPECIAL LUNCHEON

The featured speakers at the Special Luncheon will be Will Eisner and Burne Hogarth. They will be introduced by Ed Aprill and Maurice Horn respectively. There will be a question and answer period, of course, and also a few opening remarks on behalf of SCARP by Phil Seuling.

This Luncheon promises to be one of the high points of the convention. It will take place at one P. M. on Saturday, July 6th. Order tickets now from: SCARP, c/o Bill and Linda Parente, 15-D Arcadia Road, Hackensack, New Jersey.

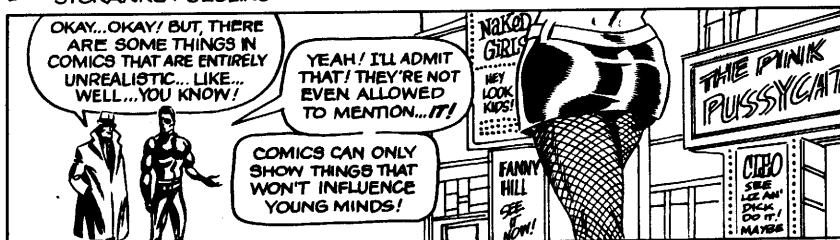
## FILM PROGRAM

One of the features of the convention will be an evening of movies. These films will be selected and presented by Chris Steinbrunner, one of the top pop film buffs in New York City. Chris presented the films for the New York comic convention in 1965 and for the two summer conventions in 1966. Chris hasn't finalized the program as yet, but one of the highlights will be the feature version of "Captain Marvel," in which all the high points of the serial have been carefully edited to bring a continuous succession of thrills.

Also on the program will be a short sound film made by John Ryan, Australia's most fervent devotee of comic art. The film concerns collecting comics Down Under, and includes views of some Australian comic artists.

# THE CONVENTIONEERS

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## COSTUME EVENT

One of the features of the Convention will be a masquerade event, with judging in four categories: best costume, best humorous costume, most original costume, and best group entry. Plaques will be given as permanent souvenirs of their victory to the winners in each category.

How does an otherwise sensible, mature person join in a costume event? There are two very distracting questions which force one to hesitate and to wonder if it would be a wise decision to become a part of it all: 1) Where the heck do I get a costume? and 2) Won't I feel like some kind of nut wearing it? Let's attempt to answer these questions.

First of all, to get a costume you must have a mother, girlfriend, sister, cousin, or neighbor who owns a sewing machine and can use it. Then you must plead. When you've worn her down, explain the details, provide a color picture of the costume, tell her when you must have it, and then disappear. The ensuing vocabulary (for the next week or so) will be enough to make a soldier blush. Simply pick it up when it's ready. Nothing to it.

Then we come to the question of whether or not you'll feel like some kind of nut. The answer is -- yes! But to compensate for that, you'll have the excitement, the dozens of jokes people (and you) will insist on making, the laugh you'll get when you encounter a mirror. And for years to come, you'll have photos to remind you of when you stepped into a phone booth (or an abandoned subway tunnel) and soon stepped back out, but this time as ... !

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The chairwoman of the costume event is Carole Seuling. Please contact her about your ideas, what materials to use, and especially who you plan to come as. (We'd all like to avoid having thirty-seven Batmen.) She's at 2883 West 12th Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11224.

-- P. S.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

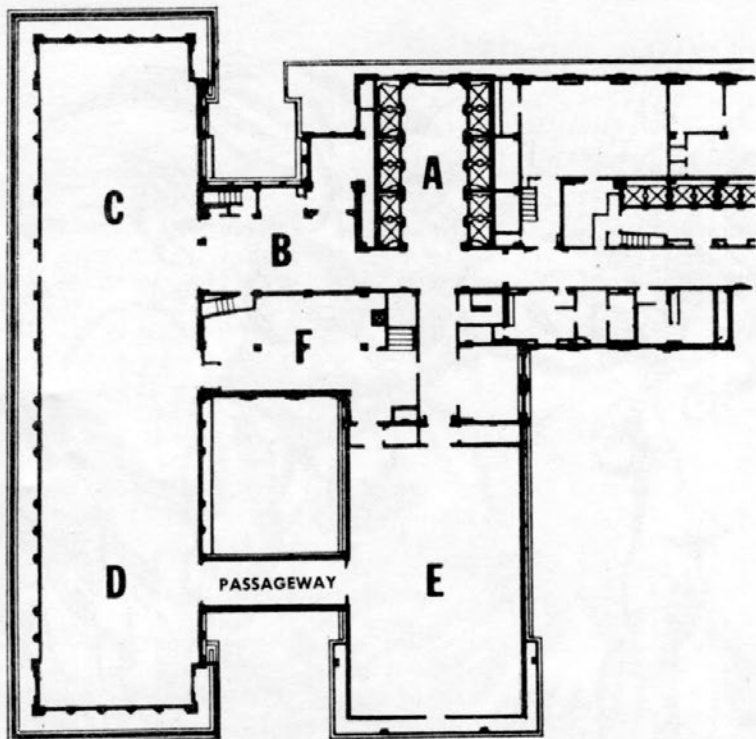
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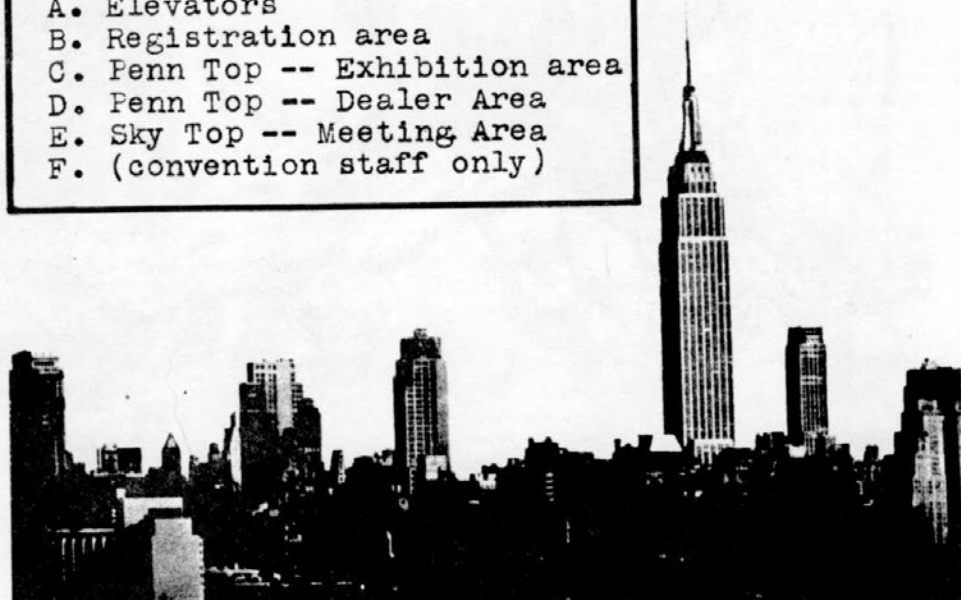
And the more registrations, the more facilities are opened to us by the hotel. So, register at the Statler-Hilton. Be comfortable, and be near where the action is!





# FLOORPLAN OF CONVENTION AREA

- A. Elevators
- B. Registration area
- C. Penn Top -- Exhibition area
- D. Penn Top -- Dealer Area
- E. Sky Top -- Meeting Area
- F. (convention staff only)





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